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ADDRESS of the LONDON CORRESPONDING SOCIETY, united for the Purpose of obtaining Universal Suffrage and Annual Parliaments, to the various PATRIOTIC SOCIETIES of GREAT BRITAIN.

CITIZENS!



IT is with equal surprise and indignation that this Society have beheld the late rapid encroachments made by some of the constituted powers in this country upon the freedom of Britons—the attacks (hitherto unparelled, since the *disastrous days of CHARLES the First, and JAMES the Second*) that have been successively made upon the constitutional and natural rights of the subject; the flagrant attempts on the *personal security of individuals*, by an infamous *inquisitorial system* of SPIES and INFORMERS, and *formal processes of PERSECUTION FOR OPINION*, and the unqualified attempt to *annihilate the intellectual progress of man* by the suppression of what has hitherto been held as our *birthright and peculiar prerogative*—the free and peaceable enquiry into the PRINCIPLES OF LEGISLATION, and the practices of the EXECUTIVE GOVERNMENT.

CITIZENS!

We are well assured of your sympathy in the feelings which these alarming, and (since the REVOLUTION THAT PLACED THE PRESENT FAMILY UPON THE THRONE) unprecedented stretches of Prerogative have excited in our bosoms; and more especially in the *horror and execration* with which we cannot cease to contemplate the *conduct of certain MAGISTRATES*, particularly in the TOWN and COUNTY of EDINBURGH; where, *in direct VIOLATION, not only of the GENERAL PRINCIPLES, but of the EXPLICIT and AVOWED MAXIMS both of the COMMON and STATUTE LAW of the Country*, unprecedented *affronts*, and even PERSONAL VIOLENCE (to the scandal of FREEDOM and JUSTICE) have been exerted to interrupt and disperse a *legal, peaceable, and enlightened assembly* of PATRIOTS, whose constitutional exertions for *reforming the abuses of our PARLIAMENTARY REPRESENTATION, and redressing, thereby, the GRIEVANCES under which we labour*, demand, instead of *prosecutions, fines, imprisonments, and TRANSPORTATION*,

Civic Crowns from their Country, and the Applauses and Admiration of Mankind.

CITIZENS!

Though we are of no *party*, and behold with perfect indifference, the struggles and contentions of *interested factions*, we believe there can be, at this time, but one opinion (among *placemen, pensioners, and expectants* alone excepted) concerning the conduct and principles of the PRESENT ADMINISTRATION—An *Administration* which has not only advanced with unparalleled boldness in its repeated *attacks upon our* CONSTITUTIONAL LIBERTY; but has plunged, also in *hitherto unheard of* INFAMY, the *once* awful name of Britain—An *Administration* which, not content with *overwhelming* in WANT and MISERY the PEOPLE for whose prosperity it was their duty to provide, and *endangering the* CONSTITUTION which they pretended so servilely to adore, by *precipitating into an* UNJUST and RUINOUS WAR, has conducted that war, *not upon the open and magnanimous principles* upon which this country had formerly used to pride itself, but upon a *new fangled* and extravagant system of CORRUPTION and TREACHERY, and, by the *peculiar absurdity*, as well as the *meanness* of its measures has brought a STAIN upon the NATIONAL CHARACTER of BRITAIN, which nothing but the *attested disapprobation of the people* can obliterate from the memory of Europe—An *administration* which, not content with these *external stains* with which it has blotched the *once fair character of the country*, has introduced, also ACCUMULATED DISEASES and CORRUPTIONS *into its very vitals*—under the deceitful and insinuating title of *Associations for the protection of liberty and property*, has publicly patronised a new species of STAR CHAMBER INQUISITION (an institution so justly execrated in the TYRANNICAL REIGNS of the Stewarts);—and has either flagitiously authorised or supinely suffered the inferior magistracy to trample on the sacred boundaries meant to secure the liberties of the people, to exceed the constitutional limits of their authority, and to make the civil arm an engine of violence and depredation.

CITIZENS,

We wish to be candid in the midst of all the censures which

injustice forces from our lips ; and it is therefore that we make it a matter of doubt (it not having yet been proved) whether the illegal insult we have received, and the deep wound that has been given to the yet remaining liberties of Britain, in the treatment of the several Delegates of the British Convention, whose persons and papers have so unlawfully been seized and made the subjects of unprecedented prosecutions, were committed or not by the express orders of his Majesty's Ministers. To us, however, it appears that a violation so open and flagitious of every natural and constitutional right, would not have been ventured upon by these inferior engines of authority, without the encouragement and assured protection of higher powers.

CITIZENS! it is necessary that these circumstances should be boldly and severely investigated—it is necessary for the promotion of this investigation, that the Friends of Liberty should act with unanimity and concert ; and it is therefore that we thus, in a body, address your respective Societies.

By what means shall this concert be effected? Though in Scotland all law and liberty have been violated to crush association and enquiry, remember that, if we have the *will*, we have yet the *power*, in this or any other part of *England* to assemble, by a still more general delegation (and we recommend it to you to hold yourselves in preparation for such a measure, should it be found necessary) to co-operate in the constitutional measures of our Committee of Convention yet assembled. Exigencies may arise in which we ought not to trust to the slow, the precarious, and imperfect intercourse of epistolary correspondence ; and the friends of liberty ought to be, and we trust they are rather *animated* than *intimidated* by the opposition they have met with and the treatment of their glorious and enlightened champions.

But independent of the specific *mode* of co-operation (upon which we anxiously expect your sentiments) there is a particular measure, which, with your approbation and concurrence, we wish to adopt, namely, a *Remonstrance* to each of the three branches of the Legislature against the dangerous innovations which prerogative and ministerial artifice are making upon the *valuable parts* of our Laws and Constitution—the system of spies and persecutions—the usurpations of inferior magistrates—and particularly the alarming transactions of the police and

courts of law in Scotland, where all shadow of Liberty seems annihilated by the rod of power—that invincible spirit alone excepted that reigns in the hearts of a brave and enlightened people.

CITIZENS, we wish, in this remonstrance, to demand an immediate enquiry into the nature of our constitutional rights; the instructions (if any) which the Judges and Magistrates have received, relative to their alarming conduct; the authority by which such instructions (if real) have been given, and just and constitutional vengeance upon the heads of those who shall be found to have been the real violators of such laws as were meant for the protection of liberty, and the happiness and prosperity of the people.

Such, Fellow Citizens, is the measure relative to which we call upon you for your immediate opinion. If in such a measure you will co-operate with us, let us know, without delay, the proposed means of your co-operation. Should any other appear more advisable, we shall be happy to have your sentiments without delay.

In the mean time we remain,
in all the zeal and ardour of the love of liberty,

Yours, 6 JU 62

THE LONDON CORRESPONDING SOCIETY.

Resolved at a General Meeting of the said Society, held on Monday the 6th of January, 1794, that a printed Copy of the above Letter be sent, without Delay, to the Secretaries and Chairmen of the respective patriotic Societies in Great Britain and Ireland.

RESOLVED; that during the ensuing Session of Parliament, the General Committee of this Society do meet daily, for the purpose of watching the proceedings of the Parliament, and of the Administration of the Government of this Country. And that upon the first introduction of any bill or motion inimical to the liberties of the people, such as for **LANDING FOREIGN TROOPS IN GREAT BRITAIN OR IRELAND, for SUSPENDING THE HABEAS CORPUS ACT, for PROCLAIMING MARTIAL LAW, or for PREVENTING THE PEOPLE FROM MEETING IN SOCIETIES FOR CONSTITUTIONAL INFORMATION, or any OTHER INNOVATION** of a similar nature, that, on any of these emergencies, the General Committee shall issue summonies to the Delegates of each division, and also to the Secretaries of the different Societies affiliated and corresponding with this Society, forthwith to call a General Convention of the People, to be held at such place, and in such a manner as shall be specified in the summons, for the purpose of taking such measures into their consideration.

J. MARTIN, Chairman.